Mr. M'Nab exhibited several sections of oak-stems found in the course of excavations made at Tanfield, Canonmills, and read the following notice supplied by Mr. M'Caul, who had superintended the operations:—"In the course of excavating a pit for a new gasometer nine years ago, a number of oak-stems, the largest 2 feet in diameter, were found. In the pit now excavating, and from 80 to 90 feet from the one alluded to, two fine trees were found. The position they occupied was about 10 feet below the original surface, beneath the lowest bed of gravel, and immediately over the boulder clay, their direction being nearly east and west. Three of the pieces were lying horizontally, and two of them had a rise towards the east at an angle of 10°. At the western or lower part of these stems, roots in connection with them could be traced; but they mouldered away to the touch."

A specimen of yellow-flowered *Hibiscus*, raised by Mr. Isaac Anderson from seeds sent from China by Colonel Eyre, was exhibited. The plant was about 2 feet high and had a woody stem. The leaves are hairy, the petals sulphur-yellow, the flower when expanded being 3 to 4 inches across. The epicalyx consists of eight to ten linear sepals, while the calyx consists of two sepals united and thrown to one side.

A specimen of *Hyoscyamus* raised from seeds communicated to Mr. Moore of the Chelsea Botanic Garden by Major Madden, was exhibited. The plant grows in the Himalaya, and resembles *H. albus* in some respects. In the open border it attains the height of 2 feet. It has ovate leaves and terminal cymes. The flowers are of a dingy yellow, and the calyx is covered with glandular pubescence. Dr. Douglas Maclagan tried the effect of the plant on the eye. A single drop of the fresh juice caused dilatation of the pupil in twenty minutes, and the dilatation with slight double vision continued for twenty-four hours.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HOLOSTOMUM CUTICOLA. Pl. V. figs. 3 & 4.

Norwich, June 10th, 1851.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—Should you consider the following notice worthy of insertion in the 'Annals,' you will oblige me by its publication.

I remain, Gentlemen, your very obedient servant,

ROBERT WIGHAM.

Specimens of the Bream and Roach have long been observed in the rivers of this part of the country to be frequently covered with black spots, and have been generally considered, when in this condition, to be in a diseased state. I have lately examined these spots with the microscope, and find them to consist of a collection of minute black granules of a branched radiating structure and of a confervoid appearance, and which form the outer coat of cysts containing a transparent membranous cyst in which I found an ani-

malcule. Not being able to find it described in any British author, I sent it to Prof. Allman of Trinity College, Dublin, who kindly informed me it is the *Holostomum cuticola* of Nordmann, and is described and figured in his 'Mikrographische Beiträge,' which work has not been yet translated, and that he had not seen it before, and was not aware that it had before been observed in Britain. Prof. Allman very kindly sent me a neat sketch of the animal, a copy of which I inclose.

Pl. V. fig. 3. *Holostomum cuticola*, front view under slight compression.
——— fig. 4. The same, side view.

On the Occurrence of Trigonellites *in the Upper Chalk at Norwich.*
By T. G. Bayfield.

Norwich, Aug. 11, 1851.

Sir,—I have lately obtained from a chalk-pit, near this city, an example of the problematic fossil called *Trigonellites* by Parkinson, and *Aptychus* by Meyer. The specimen exhibits the inner surface marked by lines of growth, as in the Oolitic species. In the same pit have been found *Ammonites peramplus*, and another species, which are usually rare in the Upper Chalk. This discovery is interesting, as it proves the distribution of the Trigonellite to be co-extensive with that of the Ammonite, of which it has been regarded as the operculum.

Yours respectfully,

To Dr. Francis. T. G. Bayfield.

LOCALITIES OF RARE BRITISH CRUSTACEA.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Shantalla, Galway, August 18, 1851.

Gentlemen,—Allow me to communicate the following localities in the county of Galway for some of the rarer British Crustacea:—

Achæus Cranchii; in 5 fathoms, Bar of Killeany Bay, Great South Island of Aran.

Pagurus Hyndmani; } common at various depths—6 to 40 fa-
P. lævis; } thoms.

P. Forbesii; one specimen in 20 fathoms, and a second in 35 fathoms, outside of the Great Isle of Aran.

Crangon fasciatus; along with
Achæus Cranchii.

Crangon spinosus; in 20 fathoms, South Sound of Aran.

C. sculptus; one specimen in 6 fathoms, off Deer Island, Galway Bay, and two in 20 fathoms, South Sound of Aran.

C. bispinosus?; two specimens in 30 fathoms, limestone gravel bottom, outside of the Great Isle of Aran.

I have no doubt that these specimens are referable to *C. bispinosus*; but the learned author of the 'British Crustacea' will decide the point, as the specimens will shortly be in his possession.

Nika edulis; Bertraghboy Bay.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Alexander G. Melville.